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However admirable the book may be as a general statement of the essential facts of botany, it will suggest criticisms from the standpoint of teaching. The most important of these the author has forestalled by stating that "this is not a book to be recited." In the text the same plant is discussed several times under different headings, a method that would not commend itself either for recitation or for laboratory work, but in the directions for laboratory work all the essential structures are called for while each plant is in hand. It is very evident, therefore, that the intelligent teacher is to use the book for assigned readings suitable to the material under examination in the laboratory and supplementary to it. It is hard for some teachers to get away from the idea of the recitation of consecutive pages.

Another criticism will be that the book is better designed for schools as they ought to be, than for schools as they are. The author practically confesses that he is writing for a somewhat ideal condition, and probably he is; certainly for a condition less realized in the east than in the west, where elementary instruction in science is so much further advanced. However, it is a matter of doubt to the reviewer whether any but the exceptional secondary schools will ever be able to do completely such morphological work as this book calls for; and also whether it is the most desirable work for them, handicapped as they are by lack of equipment, time, and age. First impressions must be correct, but it may not be necessary to include at first recondite things even if they are essential. There cannot be too much of ecology and physiology in elementary work, but it has seemed to the reviewer that recondite morphological structures are in danger of being pressed too far with elementary students.—J. M. C.

#### **The Illustrated Flora.<sup>2</sup>**

WITH the appearance of the third volume this important work is complete, and the authors should be congratulated upon its prompt publication, the first volume having appeared in 1896. Volume one was reviewed in the *GAZETTE* 22:269. 1896, volume two in 24:120. 1897, and little need be added in reference to the present volume, which contains the great sympetalous families. Use of the work has proved its adaptation to the needs of those who wish to determine plants, and it should certainly find a place in the library of all interested in taxonomy. When it is remembered that 4162 species are described and illustrated, representing 177 families and 1103 genera, it is surprising that the illustrations are so well done. The present volume, in an appendix, adds the descriptions and illustrations of eighty-one

<sup>2</sup>BRITTON, NATHANIEL LORD, and BROWN, ADDISON.—An illustrated flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. In three volumes. Vol. III. Apocynaceæ to Compositæ. 8vo. pp. xiv + 588, fully illustrated. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.00.

species, mostly western, which are new determinations or new discoveries made while the work was going through the press.

Certain special features of the volume deserve mention, such as a general key to the orders and families, a glossary of special terms, a general index of Latin names with very full synonymy, and an English index including popular plant names. This last is the completest compilation of American plant names hitherto published, containing about 10,000 names, and over 12,000 references to the illustrations.

It will be remembered that the territory covered by the work extends from Newfoundland to the parallel of the southern boundary of Virginia, and from the Atlantic ocean westward to the 102d meridian, a territory extending somewhat further to the north and west than that covered by the sixth edition of Gray's *Manual*. A comparison of the number of species of spermatophytes recognized by the two is interesting, and is shown in the following table :

	Gymnos.	Monocot.	Archichlam.	Sympet.	Total
Manual	22	785	1226	1022	3055
Ill. Flora	27	1058	1601	1361	4048

This difference of a thousand species is explained partly by the more extensive range of the *Illustrated Flora*, but is most largely due to a different conception of species. The two works may be considered as complementary, and both are very useful.—J. M. C.

#### Report of Missouri Botanical Garden.

THE ninth annual report of this very active establishment was issued last March, and continues its valuable contributions, chiefly to taxonomy. Thompson's paper on Lemnaceæ has already been noticed in the *GAZETTE* (24: 440. 1897). The other papers are as follows:

1. GLATFELTER, N. M.: "Notes on *Salix longipes* Shuttlw. and its relations to *S. nigra* Marsh.," in which the author attempts to prove their title to be considered distinct species.

2. IRISH, H. C.: "A revision of the genus *Capsicum* with especial reference to garden varieties." This is really the completion of work undertaken by the late Dr. E. L. Sturtevant, for which he collected a great amount of material and literature, all of which with his drawings, notes, etc., were given to the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1892. The work was further prosecuted by F. W. Dewart and then by J. G. Smith, and finally, in 1896, was undertaken by Mr. Irish. The last revision of the genus was that of Dunal in 1852, in which fifty species were recognized; and but three new species have